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NEWS RELEASE

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194 Cited for Speeding in Week Three of Enforcement Campaign ***GHSA offers 5 Reasons Why You Shouldn't Speed***

Dover – In the third week of a statewide enforcement initiative to get drivers to “Stop speeding before it stops you,” Delaware law enforcement officers issued 194 citations alone for speeding violations. This brings the total number of speed citations for the first three weeks of the initiative to 648.

In addition to the 194 speeding citations, officers also made 3 aggressive driving arrests (which requires them to observe three or more traffic violations in one incident), and issued 152 citations for other traffic violations including individual offenses such as running red lights and stop signs, which are identified aggressive driving behaviors.

Preventing speed-related crashes and fatalities is the new focus of the Office of Highway Safety's 2008 “Stop Aggressive Driving” campaign, which OHS and law enforcement launched July 7th. Enforcement statistics for the week of July 21 – 27 were provided by three of the four law enforcement agencies receiving funding for the initiative which operates on primary and secondary roadways identified as having speed-related injury and fatality crash problems. Reporting agencies were the Delaware State Police, the Dover Police, and the New Castle County Police.

Speeding-related deaths kill approximately 13,500 Americans each year. Speeding is one of the few areas in highway safety where progress hasn't been made, according to the Governors Highway Safety Association (GHSA). GHSA is hopeful that the high cost of gasoline will cause people to slow down. If they won't slow down to save a life, perhaps they'll slow down to save a buck. To this end, GHSA presents 5 reasons you shouldn't speed...

- **Save lives** - Slowing down increases the likelihood of surviving a crash. One researcher found that a 1 percent decrease in travel speed reduces injury crashes by about 2%, serious injury crashes by about 3% and fatal crashes by about 4%.
- **Save money** - Speeding reduces fuel efficiency, causing you to buy gas more often. The Department of Energy estimates that, as a rule of thumb, drivers can assume that each 5 mph they drive above 60 mph is like paying an additional \$0.20 per gallon for gas.
- **Save the environment** - According to Ford Motor Company, driving a vehicle at 65 mph consumes about 15% more fuel than driving the same vehicle at 55 mph. More fuel consumed means more CO2 released into the atmosphere.
- **Save yourself a ticket** - Highway safety agencies and law enforcement are cracking down on speeders. Obey the sign or pay the fine!
- **Save your license** - A speeding ticket could lead to points on your driving record. Too many points and you could lose your license and your insurance premiums could go up.

The speed focused “Stop Aggressive Driving Campaign is the third component of the 120 Days of Summer HEAT initiative, a summer-time crackdown on traffic violators. For more information on the “Stop Aggressive Driving campaign, visit the Office of Highway Safety website at www.ohs.delaware.gov.

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